

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~~~EYES ONLY~~WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

'70 DEC 23 PM 5:34

T O P S E C R E T 232056Z DEC 70 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
TO : AMBASSADOR BUNKER, KATHMANDU  
CITE: WHS0056

DOS, OSD reviews  
completed

MORI/CDF C05108794

FOR : AMBASSADOR BUNKER  
FROM : HENRY A. KISSINGER

GENERAL HAIG MENTIONED THE MATTER OF THE DESIRABILITY OF SIR ROBERT THOMPSON RETURNING TO VIETNAM TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE POLICE PROBLEM EARLY NEXT YEAR. BILL COLBY ALSO TOLD DICK SMYER LAST WEEK IN SAIGON THAT HE AND PRIME MINISTER KHIEM FAVORED THE PROJECT. HOWEVER, I ASSUME THAT YOU WILL WANT TO CHECK WITH THIEU BEFORE WE CONTACT SIR ROBERT. IF NOT PLEASE LET ME KNOW. MY CONCERN IS THAT IF THIEU IS NOT REALLY BEHIND POLICE IMPROVEMENT THERE WOULD BE NO VALUE IN GOING AHEAD WITH THOMPSON'S PROJECT. WE ARE NOT WEDDED TO THOMPSON PROJECT AND WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR WISHES. I WILL AWAIT WORD FROM YOU BEFORE PROCEEDING.

WE HAVE REVIEWED NSC TEAM'S FINDINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND DISCUSSED THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN WHICH GENERAL HAIG MENTIONED TO YOU. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL APPROVE THE PROGRAM LARGELY ALONG THE LINES HAIG OUTLINED.

SECRETARY LAIRD HAS NOW BEEN APPRISED OF THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES WITH RESPECT TO BOTH THE CAMBODIAN AND THE POST-TET PHASES OF THIS PLAN. THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO INFORM NO ONE ELSE DURING THIS PLANNING PHASE UNTIL SECRETARY LAIRD AND ADMIRAL MOORER RETURN FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. GENERAL ABRAMS WILL BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH THE CAMBODIAN PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN SOMETIME TODAY AND SECRETARY LAIRD AND ADMIRAL MOORER HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT FURTHER ON THE POST-TET PHASE DURING THEIR VISIT.

THE PRESIDENT TOLD SECRETARY LAIRD AND ADMIRAL MOORER THAT THEY WERE TO APPROACH THIS PORTION OF THE CAMPAIGN POSITIVELY, WITH THE VIEW TOWARD ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION. THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED SECRETARY LAIRD TO AVOID USING U.S. AIRLIFT FOR PURELY ARVN TROOP LIFT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND TO JUSTIFY U.S. AIRLIFT IN TERMS OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT.

GENERAL HAIG HAS APPRISED US OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN AND HIS CONCERNS ABOUT TROOP LEVELS. AS OF THIS WRITING, THE PRESIDENT IS INCLINED TO WITHHOLD DECISION ON OUR TROOP LEVELS FOR THE PERIOD FOLLOWING JULY 1 UNTIL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPRAISE AT LEAST THE EARLY PHASE OF THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN. HAIG ALSO INFORMED ME OF THIEU'S POSITION ON THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE AND I ANTICIPATE THAT YOU WILL KEEP US INFORMED VIA THIS CHANNEL OF THIEU'S THINKING AS IT CRYSTALLIZES.

GENERAL HAIG WAS MOST COMPLIMENTARY OF THE COURTESIES EXTENDED BY YOU AND YOUR EMBASSY PERSONNEL DURING THE VISIT OF OUR TEAM TO SAIGON LAST WEEK.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.

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